

**Golf Commission Meeting
February 25, 2008
Minutes**

Members Present: Tom Galla, Chairman; Sue Casey; Don Espach; Owen Evans; George Furkiotis; Bruce Gerstman; Tony Johnson

Members Absent: Jim Steidlmayer

Chairman Tom Galla called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Mr. Galla spoke about the recent passing of Mr. Donald J. Miklus, Vice-Chairman, Golf Commission. Mr. Galla stated that “as long as I am Chairman of the Commission, meetings would start five minutes late as a tribute to Don” - who was usually late for meetings, but then remained at the meeting as long as it took. Mr. Miklus was remembered as a friend to all, and especially those at Tashua Knolls Golf Course. In his eulogy last week, Mr. Raymond Baldwin, First Selectman, remembered Don as a “gentle giant” and Mr. Galla felt this was a perfect description of Don.

Mr. Galla then admitted that he didn’t know how he personally would function at future Commission meetings. He and Mr. Miklus would speak before each meeting and if something was going on at the golf course, it wouldn’t be unusual for them to speak four to five times a day. Mr. Galla said the write-up of Don in the Westport newspaper was incredible and made one realize even further that Don was a most important person. However, every time anyone called Don, he always had the time to speak to him or her and acted as if their issue was the only thing he had going on at the moment.

Mr. Miklus was the rock that kept the golf course moving in the right direction. He never told anyone that they were making the wrong decision. He just kept talking to you until you came to your own conclusion and changed your mind. He was involved in the first building committee for the Tashua Knolls course and the first Golf Commission. The only reason he wasn’t on the Commission for its entire length was that he had to move out of Trumbull for a few years. But as soon as he came back to Trumbull, he returned to the Commission. Outside of his family and his work, the Golf Commission and Tashua Knolls was his number 1 love.

Mr. Miklus will always have a special place in Mr. Galla’s heart. Both were involved in the Building Committee for the Tashua Glen course. There were many delays in getting the project going and Mr. Galla began to lose heart that the course would ever go through. But true to his style, Mr. Miklus kept talking him through it and assuring him that the Town approved the course and their charge was to build the course and they were not going to give up. Tashua Glen was built and has brought nothing but good things to Tashua Knolls. It will be even more special in the future. It is bringing families together, teaching kids about the game of golf, and allowing new golfers to get into the game.

There are nothing but good things to look forward to for Tashua Glen – all thanks to Don Miklus.

Review and approval of the Minutes

Review and approval of the Minutes of January 28, 2008... There was a motion made by Mr. Gerstman seconded by Mr. Espach to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.

Audience Participation

- None

Director of Golf Course Property Report (Hidalgo Nagashima)

Mr. Nagashima began by saying that Mr. Miklus truly was a special man. On behalf of himself and his staff, he offered his sympathies. Mr. Nagashima felt that Mr. Miklus' legacy would live on as long as there is a Tashua Knolls and Tashua Glen.

Labor:

- Director of Operations – Golf Course Properties
- Superintendent
- Mechanic
- Four full-time greensmen
- One part-time greenskeeper

Maintenance Department Outline:

- Outside work is continuing, despite the winter weather, and a significant amount of work has been completed. The two remaining projects are drainage on #18 and the bunker on #3 on the Knolls. It is anticipated that these projects will be completed prior to opening. It is also hoped that the greens can be aerated prior to opening.

Vision for 2008 – “Attention to Detail”

Increased Playability:

- Solving drainage problems on the right side of #18 Knolls

Improving Glen Conditions:

- Tee work on #s 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 greens
- Rebuilding #7 and 8 greens
- Patching and sodding greens
- Better training of co-workers
- More frequent aeration and topdressing

Bunker Quality:

- Reducing the size of the bunker on the right side of #3 Knolls
- New bunker rakes

- Better training for bunker maintenance

Greens Conditions:

- Consistency
- Thatch control on collars to stop turf loss
- Aeration and topdressing of collars

Tee and Fairway Conditions:

- Rye grass on tees
- Bentgrass on fairways

Rough Renovations:

- Continue weed control
- Aeration and seeding right side of #15 Knolls

Increased Aesthetics:

- Clubhouse grounds – parking lot paving, signage, lights, plantings
- Eliminate wear patterns – additional cart paths
- New Amenities – tee markers
- Maintenance Area Clean-up – remove debris around maintenance barn, update equipment inventory and create replacement timetable list

There were several questions regarding the parking lot. Mr. Nagashima met with Mr. DelVecchio to be put on O & G's schedule to pave the parking lot. The light bases and poles have been installed. They just need to be electrified by the UI.

New matting has been ordered for the stairs on #12 and bridges on #15 and 8 Knolls to make them less slippery. The mats are mildew resistant, drain well and don't break down from the sun.

Golf Pro/Director of Golf Report (Bobby Brown)

Mr. Brown echoed Mr. Nagashima that we must all have the vision of "Attention to Detail" in order to offer consistency in our work.

Operations:

- Starter and ranger staff training will take place the 3rd week of March and will include hand-on training, pace-of-play clocks, and the flag system. Mr. Brown and Mr. Jon Janik will conduct the 2-day training program. Starters will work from the 1st tee this season.
- Golf carts will be detailed and cleaned in March. Discussions will be held with Club Car to try to reduce the cost of extra carts during the busy season.
- Marketing of Season IDs will begin next week. ID renewals will begin March 15th and will be available on-line and in the Pro Shop. Hours of renewal will be Monday – Saturday from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

Pro Shop:

- Equipment demo days are being scheduled for April and May and include PING, Nike, Callaway, Mizuno, Taylor Made and Cleveland.

- Scott Targowski, former head professional at Oxford Greens, has been hired as 2nd Assistant. He will work behind the counter, teach, and assist on the course.
- Mr. Ron Nihoff has been hired as Golf Equipment and Repair specialist. He will work at the driving range four days a week and conduct club fitting, set composition analysis and regripping services.
- ATK will offer the latest in interchangeable head club fittings from Callaway and Nike Opti-fit system.

Tournaments:

- Jon Janik will be the new tournament director for ATK Golf and will be assisted by Scott Targowski and Chris Plumeau in planning, preparing and executing the events.

Junior Golf & Programming.

- Junior and adult programs for the 2008 season will begin in April.
- The LPGA Girls golf program will operation from April – October.
- The Trumbull High and St. Joseph golf teams will begin practicing on March 21st. Mr. Brown and Mr. Janik have been approached to co-coach the Trumbull High boys team.
- The US Kids qualifying will be held in June on the Glen.

Mr. Brown sends his prayers and condolences to the Miklus family on behalf of everyone at ATK Golf, Inc. Mr. Miklus was very instrumental in the hiring of ATK and Mr. Brown personally appreciates his mentorship over the past three seasons. He will be missed.

Mr. Evans asked about the rangers starting on the first tee and wondered about starting on the Glen. Mr. Brown responded that during busy times, a ranger would be available on the Glen as well.

Mr. Espach asked about the training program for rangers and if it would include consistency in customer service. Mr. Brown stated that he had detailed training on conflict resolution and has an entirely new approach because he felt the old ways were not effective in the past.

Mrs. Casey asked about new mats for the driving range. Mr. Brown informed the Commission that the driving range would be undergoing several renovations. He will be bringing in several styles of mats for customer feedback. Once completed, there should be 12 mats on the driving range.

Greens Committee (Owen Evans)

- Mr. Evans felt that Mr. Nagashima had adequately covered the work on the greens. He wanted to reiterate that he would like to get some work done on #3 and 18 on the Knolls if the weather warms up prior to opening day.

House Committee (Tony Johnson)

- Mr. Johnson updated the Commission on the septic situation at the clubhouse. He read a letter from Mr. Joseph Solemene, W.P.C.A. Coordinator, regarding the inspection drainage pipe under the clubhouse. Mr. Solemene states, "The inspection indicated a slight separation without consequence and a minor settlement just before entering the septic tank. I see no justification in replacing this line. The line was free from obstruction, and in sound condition." A letter will be sent to Domenick Faustini advising him of the findings.

Executive (Tom Galla)

- None.

Finance (Bobby Brown)

- Mr. Brown advised the Commission that the proposed budget is \$2,017,875.
- The following changes were also proposed to the rates for the 2008 season:
 - Tashua Knolls: all 18-hole rates (except senior and junior) increased by \$2, 9-hole rates increased by \$1; reservation fee of \$2 eliminated
 - Tashua Glen: 9-hole rates (except for non-resident seniors) increased by \$1, Family special rates increased by \$5
 - Golf Carts: increased by \$1

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Gerstman to accept the rates as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

- Mr. Galla received a letter from Mr. Baldwin, First Selectman, informing Mr. Tony Johnson that the Trumbull Town Council has reappointed him to the Golf Commission for a term expiring December 3, 2012.
- Mr. Galla received a letter from Mr. Baldwin, First Selectman, informing Mr. Don Espach that the Trumbull Town Council has appointed him to the Golf Commission to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Frank Burke for a term expiring December 1, 2008.
- Mr. Galla received a letter from Mr. Baldwin, First Selectman, informing Mrs. Susan Casey that the Trumbull Town Council has reappointed her to the Golf Commission for a term expiring December 3, 2012.

New Business

- Mr. Galla informed the Commission that the Town has purchased 4 acres of land left of #4 on the Glen. He asked the Commission for any ideas concerning use of the land.
- It was decided to leave the decision on Opening Day for the 2008 season up to Mr. Brown and Mr. Nagashima as stipulated in the by-laws.
- Mr. Galla requested that the Commission give some thought to developing a memorial to Don Miklus. Several suggestions were mentioned and more work will be done on the matter.

Old Business

- Mr. Galla reported that ATK Golf, Inc. extended its contract for six months until June 30, 2008. Once the budget has been approved, a new contract will be negotiated to include a new general manager position.
- Mr. Evans reported that there was an error in the dates for the Men's Club request for the Ryder Cup. Both September dates were off by one day.

Mr. Evans made a motion; seconded by Mr. Furkiotis to approve the Tashua Knolls Golf Club request for the 2008 season as follows: September 14 and 21, 2nd Annual Ryder Cup, 14 tee times. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn at 9:37 PM was made by Mrs. Casey; seconded by Mr. Evans. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Plumeau
Golf Commission Clerk